

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for detecting a monitor, the method comprising:
 - 5 monitoring a first node of a connector, the connector for coupling to a flat panel display;
 - asserting a first output signal to indicate the first node is in a first state; and
 - receiving the first output signal at a flat panel display controller.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first output signal is an interrupt signal.
- 10 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the interrupt signal is a system interrupt for a general purpose computer.
- 15 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first output signal is stored in a register.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
 - 15 determining if the first input is in a stable state before the step of asserting
- 20 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of determining includes the first input being stable when the input is stable for a predetermined amount of time.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the predetermined amount of time is based upon an internal timer.
- 25 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the predetermined amount of time is based upon a register value.
9. The method of claim 8, wherein the register value is indicative of a clock count.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
operating in a normal mode of operation prior to the step of monitoring, wherein
the first input is in a second state.
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11. The method of claim 1, wherein the first state is indicative of a flat panel display
being coupled to the connector.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the first state is indicative of a flat panel display
10 being decoupled from the connector.
13. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
driving a flat panel from the flat panel system controller.

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14. An apparatus for providing a display image, the apparatus comprising
a connector having a pin to receive a signal from a flat panel display when the flat
panel display is hot plugged;
a signal detect portion having an input coupled to the connector pin to detect
when a signal is received on the connector and having an output to provide
an enable signal; and
a flat panel display driver having an output to provide a display image to the
connector and an input coupled to the output of the signal detect portion.
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- 10 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the connector is part of a graphics adapter.
16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the apparatus further includes a display controller
to drive a cathode ray tube (CRT) monitor.

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17. A system for providing a display image to a flat panel monitor, the system comprising:

a processing module; and
memory operably coupled to the processing module, wherein the memory stores
5 operational instructions that cause the processing module to:
monitor a first node of a connector, the connector for coupling to a
flat panel display;
assert a first output signal to indicate the first node is in a first
state; and
receive the first output signal at a flat panel display controller.
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18. A method for enabling hardware drivers for a flat panel display device, the method comprising:

detecting a flat panel display device being disconnected, and in response:

negating an enable signal to the hardware drivers for the flat panel display
device; and

generating a system interrupt.

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19. The method of claim 18, wherein disconnecting of the flat panel display includes
powering down of the display.

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20. The method of claim 18, wherein disconnecting of the flat panel display includes
physically disconnecting the display.

21. The method of claim 18 further comprising the steps of:

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detecting a flat panel display device being connected, and in response generating a
system interrupt.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

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in response to the system interrupt, system software asserts the enable signal to
the hardware drivers for the flat panel display device.

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